

Weaving the Word

A House Divided

Part 54 – January 10, 2016

Welcome to where we're finding the courage to fully trust in a Holy God!



Does Jesus live in your house? *Don't be quick to answer ...*

Or, do you live in His? It has everything to do with whether or not your heart is a house *divided*, or a house *united*.

He who **unites himself with the Lord** is one with him in spirit. ... Do you not know that **your body is a temple** [sanctuary/house] **of the Holy Spirit**, who is **in you**, whom you have received from God? **You are not your own**; you were bought at a price. – 1 Corinthians 6:19-20a NIV

It's sadly easy for me to compartmentalize Jesus.

But, **He won't settle for a chamber in our heart.**

He demands that we make Him the heartbeat of our life.

And, if I'm double-minded, I'm a house divided.

I want to show you a technique I use to construct Jesus' ministry timeline; take that handout and let's only read from Mark's report (in blue). See the word-for-word parallels at the bottom? I find 'em, line 'em up, add in the info that comes before 'em, and then condense 'em.

| Jesus Account of Being Possessed | |
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| Mark 3:22 | They said because he is driving out demons by the power of Beelzebul, the prince of demons. |
| Mark 3:23 | Jesus said, "How can they say that because he is driving out demons by the power of Beelzebul, the prince of demons?" |
| Mark 3:24 | Jesus said, "If Beelzebul is driving out demons by the power of Beelzebul, how can the kingdom of Beelzebul stand?" |
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Then Jesus **entered a house**, [a house united] and again a crowd gathered, so that he and his disciples were not even able to eat. When his family heard about this, they went to **take charge of him**, [a house divided] for they said, "**He is out of his mind.**" [You know the old, "Lord, liar, or lunatic"? They pick "lunatic"!] **Then they** [the crowd, not the siblings] brought him a demon-possessed man who was blind and mute, and Jesus healed him, [demonstrating that He is, in fact, Lord] Jesus was driving out a demon that was mute. When the demon left, the man who had been mute spoke, so that he could both talk and see. [What do you suppose he said? I think he said: "I can see!" and everybody said, "He can talk!"] and the crowd was amazed. **All the people were astonished and said, "Could this be the Son of David?"** [They're ready to pick "Lord"] But some of them said, when the Pharisees heard this, they said, And the teachers of the law who came down from Jerusalem said, "He is possessed by **Beelzebub!**" [(another name for Satan) *Beelzeboul: "lord of the house"*] "It is only by Beelzebub, ["lord of the house"] the prince of demons, that this fellow drives out demons." [They pick "liar"] – Matthew 12:22-24; Mark 3:20-22; Luke 11:14-15 NIV



After choosing His twelve, healing a Centurion's servant, raising a widow's son, and cleansing a leper, Jesus returns to His headquarters in Capernaum, a village the size of our parking lot.

His family is on their way, pointing a finger that says: *lunatic*. And the religious leaders are already there, pointing a finger that says: *liar*.



Christ can be present without being preminent. He can even be prominent in our lives, *without* actually being Lord of the house ... *our heart*. **If He *isn't* the hub around which every spoke of life orbits, we're pointing a finger that says He's crazy to expect it, or He can't be trusted.**



Others tested him by asking for a sign from heaven. Jesus knew their thoughts So Jesus called them and spoke to them in parables: and said to them: "How can Satan drive out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. Any kingdom, Every kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and a house divided against itself will fall. that house cannot stand. and every city or household divided against itself will not stand. If Satan drives out Satan, he is divided against himself. And if Satan opposes himself and is divided, How then can his kingdom stand? he cannot stand; his end has come. I say this because you claim that I drive out demons by **Beelzebub**. ["lord of the house"] And Now if I drive out demons by **Beelzebub**, ["lord of the house"] by whom do your followers drive them out? So then, they will be your judges. – Matthew 12:25-27; Mark 3:23-26; Luke 11:16-19 NIV



I love His simple logic: when have you ever heard of a commander winning a battle by attacking his own flanks? *That's crazy*.

And later, when His family arrives to "get Him under control" ...

... they told him, "Your mother and brothers are outside looking for you." "**Who are my mother and my brothers?**" he asked. ["Certainly not those divided against Me – even though they may love Me"] Then **he looked at those seated in a circle around him** [*humbly sitting at His feet, in a house united*] and said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! **Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother.**" – Mark 3:32-35 NIV

He's not being rude; He's confronting us with truth in love. **Blood might be thicker than water; but, obedience is thicker than blood.** And, by driving out this demon, He's demonstrating that a new era of intimacy and unity with God is coming to them in and through *Him*.

But if I drive out demons by the Spirit of God, the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come to you. – Matthew 12:28; Luke 11:20 NIV

We need to focus in on "the finger of God". An arm and hand are more common Biblical images of power; but, **a finger communicates great strength:** "I could beat you with my little finger."

All the forces of Hell cannot prevail against God's finger.



In the Old Testament, God uses *fingers* to depict ...

HIS AUTHORITY: “The magicians said to Pharaoh, [when they couldn't compete with the plagues] 'This is the finger of God.'” (Ex 8:19a NIV)

HIS WORD and WITNESS: “He gave [Moses] the two tablets of the Testimony, the tablets of stone inscribed by the finger of God.” (Ex 31:18 NIV)

HIS POWER AND GLORY: “When I consider Your heavens, [declares David] the work of Your fingers ... what is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man [also called the *Son of David*] ... You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands ...” (Psalm 8:3-6 NKJ)

THE BESTOWING OF DOMINION: “Then Pharaoh took his signet ring from his finger and put it on Joseph's finger.” (Gen 41:42a NIV)

GOD'S JUDGMENT: “Suddenly the fingers of a human hand appeared [during King Belshazzar's blasphemous banquet] and wrote on the plaster of the wall ...” (Dan 5:5a NIV)

GOD'S WARFARE: “Praise be to the Lord my Rock, who trains my hands for war, my fingers for battle ... what is man that you care for him, the son of man that you think of him?” (Psalm 144:1-3 NIV)

And, in the New Testament, Jesus uses fingers to depict ...



RELIEF: “So [the rich man] called to him, ‘Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.’” (Luke 16:24 NIV)

HEALING: “Jesus put his fingers into the man's ears. Then he spit and touched the man's tongue.” [Showing that *He's* the Living Water that relieves] (Mark 7:33b NIV)

FORGIVENESS AND RESTORATION: [in the parable of the Prodigal Son] “... the father said to his servants, “Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger ...” (Luke 15:22a NIV)

So, what Jesus is saying to these finger-pointers, is this ...

“But if I drive out demons by the finger of God, [the authority, power, judgment, warfare, Word, and witness of God] then the kingdom of God [His *dominion*] has come to you” [having been bestowed unto *Me*, to bring relief, healing, forgiveness, and restoration to *you*]. – Luke 11:20 NIV

“If I'm a lunatic, don't follow. If I'm a liar, don't listen. But, if I'm the finger of God, trained for battle, you better *follow close and listen up.*”

The priest's finger had a strategic role in the regular sin offerings, and on the Day of Atonement.



He is to **dip his finger into the blood** and **sprinkle some of it seven times** before the Lord ... – Leviticus 4:6a NIV

On the *ultimate* Day of Atonement, the Finger of God was dipped in the blood of His *own* sacrifice, and “sprinkled” seven times.

Seven, separate, bloody beatings, scourgings, and piercings are recorded after Jesus is arrested and bound (John 18:12) for the cross:

- 1) **When He’s condemned by the High Priest.** (Mat 26:65-68; Mark 14:63-65)
- 2) **When He’s denied by His own disciple.** (Luke 22:59-65)
- 3) **When He’s sentenced to death by Pilate.** (John 19:1; Mat 27:26; Mark 15:15; Is 50:6, 53:5)
- 4) **When He’s crowned with thorns.** (John 19:2; Mat 27:29; Mark 15:17)
- 5) **When He’s mocked as a King.** (John 19:3; Mat 27:29-30; Mic 5:1)
- 6) **When He’s nailed to the cross.** (John 19:18; Luke 24:39)
- 7) And finally, **when He’s pierced with a spear.** (John 19:34; Zech 12:10)

And with this, the “Finger of God” ushered in His Kingdom. **We point our finger in accusation and denunciation: “Shame on you.”** But, **God points His finger in redemption and reconciliation.**

The Prophet Isaiah spoke of this:

... you will cry for help, and he will say: **“Here am I.”** If you do away with ... the pointing finger ... – Isaiah 58:9b NIV

[Why?] ... your fingers [are stained] with guilt. – Isaiah 59:3b NIV

If we refuse to give Jesus our undivided trust and attention, it’s a finger-pointing accusation that He doesn’t deserve it. That He’s something less than what He claims to be.

It’s quite significant, and symbolic, when ...

... he said to Thomas, **“Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.”** Thomas said to him, **“My Lord and my God!”** **[That gets his undivided attention!]** Then Jesus told him, **“Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”** – John 20:27-29 NIV

Does Jesus live in *your* house ... or, do you live in *His*? **If He’s only got a guest room, you’re a house *divided*. We’re either for Him fully, or against Him by default.**

But, if you’re living in His house, in your heart, imperfect but humbly seated at His feet, you are a house *united in Christ*. And the gates of hell will not prevail against it. (Mat 16:18)